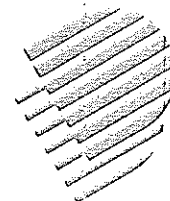


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



February 7, 2011

TO: Program Review and Investigations Committee

RE: Raised Bill 5259 and Raised Bill 5142

Good Morning Senator Fonfara, Representative Rowe, and Committee Members,

My name is Mary-Ann Langton, and I am a Disability Policy Specialist for the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council is a Governor appointed body of persons with disabilities, parents of children with developmental disabilities and agency representatives that serve people with developmental disabilities. The Council receives federal funding from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to implement the Developmental Disabilities Act and to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities.

Group homes have been in existence since 1970. This model enables people with disabilities to receive assistance from staff in a medical model philosophy. However, the Council does not promote group homes but, rather, believes people with disabilities should have the right to choose their living arrangement.

The Council opposes Bill 5249 and Bill 5142 requiring public hearings on the location of group homes. The Council feels requiring a public hearing for a group homes location for people with disabilities is discriminatory under the current federal and state laws. In addition, this further exemplifies that people with disabilities are "second rate citizens." Recently, I contacted a realtor who felt that group homes do not devalue the price of surrounding real estate but offer a diverse neighborhood in a community.

Thank you. I would be happy to take questions.

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